

## REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-13 are pending and under consideration. Claims 1, 10, 11, and 12 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments can be located, for example, in Fig. 10, steps S21 and S22, and relevant descriptions in the specification. New claim 13 has been added.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 3-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,984,178 (Gill) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,832,341 (Vijayan) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,139 (Feridun).

Feridun is directed to a method of event correlation implemented within a distributed environment having a management server and a set of managed machines. According to Feridun, the method begins by establishing a set of correlation rules, implemented by a software-based state machine, for example. Each correlation rule is adapted to recognize a given pattern of one or more events indicative of a given condition. The particular type of correlation rules implemented by the state machines may be varied. A representative set of correlation rules may include a matching rule triggered by an event that satisfies a given search criteria defined in the matching rule. Another type is a duplicate rule triggered by a given event associated with a given condition. Where the duplicate rule is used, the given action includes ignoring the given event for a specified time period after occurrence of the given condition. Feridun also includes a threshold rule and a reset rule.

The Examiner asserted that Feridun teaches the claimed feature "checking if there is inconsistency in an event order".

In response to this new ground of rejection, claim 1, for example, is amended to set forth that an occurred event as well as a device number and a management pattern corresponding to the occurred event are determined. Further, the claim language indicates that the operation of checking if there is inconsistency in an event order is performed in response to detecting that the occurred event, the device number, or the management pattern does not match the registered management information.

Thus, as indicated by the language of currently amended claim 1, the check is twofold. The first check is to determine whether the occurred event, the device number, or the management pattern matches the registered management information. The second check is to determine if there is inconsistency in an event order. This second check is performed when the first check detects a mismatch.

Feridun teaches Pass Through Rules that are triggered by a specific sequence of events, and also teaches Reset Rules that are triggered only if the specific sequence of events does not occur (column 9, lines 33 to 38). Nowhere in the specification, does Feridun teach or suggest twofold checks as recited in currently amended claim 1.

As Neither Gill nor Vijayan cures this deficiency, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 10, 11, 12, and 13 are patentable over the cited combination of references.

As dependent claims 3-9 depend from independent claim 1, the dependent claims are patentable over the references for at least the reasons presented for independent claim 1.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

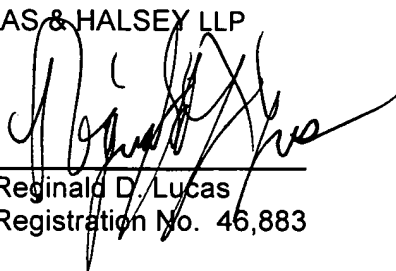
Respectfully submitted,

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